

REVIEWS



BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

BUSHWHACKED:

Inside Stories of True Conspiracy by Uri Dowbenko

Conspiracy Digest, USA, 2002

ISBN 0-9710042-1-8 (357pp tpb)

Price: US\$19.95 + US\$4 s&h (for o/s s&h check website); Euro25,90

Availability: **USA**—Conspiracy Digest, LLC, PO Box 43, Pray, Montana 59065, tel 1-866 317 1390 (toll free, USA/Can), email virtualagency@yahoo.com, website <http://www.conspiracydigest.com>; **Eur**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 (0)321 380558

For the title of his conspiracy compilation, writer Uri Dowbenko has extended the meaning of "bushwhacked" with a capital "B", encompassing the corruption endemic under successive US governments, several of them involving a Bush in high places.

For *Bushwhacked*, Dowbenko has collected a number of his essays and interviews which tell something of the sub-text within US government, business and society (some of these articles have been published in NEXUS). Among the investigations are HUD (Housing and Urban Development) frauds, kickbacks to the Internal Revenue Service chief, more Iran–Contra scandals, the Enron–Bush connection and high-level drug-running. Particularly disturbing (as ever) is the testimony from victims of the *Monarch* and *MK-Ultra* mind-control programs run by the CIA and other government agencies (I have to presume that the cover illustration featuring a naked, tortured woman relates to this context).

The second part is devoted to interviews with former insiders and whistleblowers like Rodney Stich, Al Martin, Malachi Martin (on the end of religion), William Gibson (of cybergrunge fame), remote viewer David Morehouse and former British intelligence operative John Coleman.

The final section on "Secret Knowledge" has a chapter on the "New (Reptilian) World Order", which runs the gamut from the Anunnaki of ancient Sumer to mind-control survivor Arizona Wilder's weird world populated by shapeshifting aliens with a lust for human sacrifice! Whatever we may think, Dowbenko includes these and other conspiratorial and paranoid subjects because they are the undercurrents of our modern times.

TUTANKHAMUN:

The Exodus Conspiracy by Andrew Collins and Chris Ogilvie-Herald

Virgin Books, UK, 2002

ISBN 1-85227-972-9 (338pp hc)

Price: NZ\$64.95; £20.00; Euro35,90; US\$29.95

Availability: **NZ/Europe**—NEXUS offices;

UK—Virgin Books, website

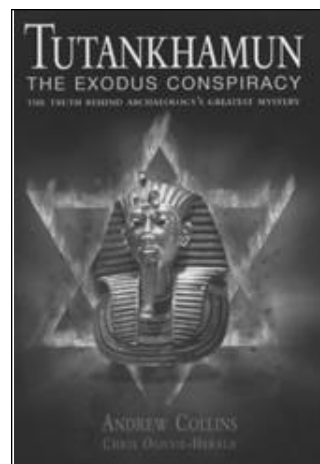
<http://www.virgin.com/books>; **USA**—Client Distribution Services, tel 800 343 4499, email orderentry@cds-books.com

On the jacket cover of this book, the golden mask of the Egyptian boy-king Tutankhamun is superimposed over a Star of David in flames. But how are these two powerful symbols—one Egyptian, the other Jewish—linked? Andrew Collins (*From the Ashes of Angels*) and Chris Ogilvie-Herald (co-author, *Giza: The Truth*) have teamed up

to explore some of the behind-the-scenes mysteries surrounding Howard Carter's opening of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 (exactly 80 years to the day, as I write!).

Apparently, among the artefacts found in the tomb were papyri which told the true story of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Had they been made public, they might have altered the course of history in terms of the establishment of the state of Israel, the authors propose. And though their existence remains unproven, these documents are also believed to put a different spin on the establishment of Judaism.

The authors posit that the ancient Trans-Jordan city of Petra is intrinsic to the foundation of the Jewish faith. The sacred Mount Sinai, whose location has been often disputed, they suggest may be the thousand-metre-high peak of Jebel al-Madhbah, the "High Place" and holy sanctuary of Petra. The twists and turns of their lines of enquiry make this a surprising discovery tour.





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POPULAR PARANOIA:

A *Steamshovel Press* Anthology edited by Kenn Thomas

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2002
ISBN 1-931882-06-1 (320pp l/f tpb)
Price: A\$45.00; NZ\$49.00 + p&p; £17.50
inc. p&p; Euro 25,90; US\$19.95 + s&h
Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK/Europe**—
NEXUS offices; **USA**—Adventures
Unlimited, tel (815) 253 6390, website
<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>

It's hard to believe that six years have elapsed since we reviewed *Popular Alienation*, an anthology of the first 13 editions of the Missouri-based underground conspiracy zine, *Steamshovel Press*. That "all conspiracy, no theory" samizdat will turn 15 in 2003, which is some achievement. It certainly deserves its place in the annals of popular culture for the side-swiping iconoclastic perspectives it presents.

Much has happened since 1995, and some of the significant events are reflected in commentary in issues nos. 14 (Fall 1995) through 18 (2001). This new compilation, *Popular Paranoia*, reflects a rising tide of suspicion that's so much a part of the global conspiracy culture and is now entering the average Western psyche. It covers, admittedly with an American bent, "parapolitical" subjects as diverse as the Nation of Islam, the Oklahoma City bombing, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the influence of "the Octopus". It also includes the last interviews with Ginsberg, Burroughs and "neuronaut" Leary. (It must be said, though, that the omission of a contents page doesn't make it easy for the reader.)

Steamshovel's Kenn Thomas is one of the few alternative news editors/publishers courageous enough to include a regular

"Saucer Section", touching on other-worldly matters at the risk of his own credibility, because he has an inkling of how far the tentacles of the Octopus spread—as readers familiar with his research would know.

TIME AND THE TECHNOSPHERE

by José Argüelles, PhD

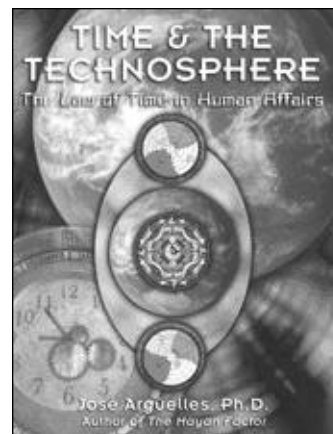
Inner Traditions, USA, 2002
ISBN 1-879181-99-1 (259pp tpb)
Price: A\$46.00; NZ\$59.95; £17.99;
Euro25,90; US\$20.00
Availability: **Australia**—Brumby Books, tel
(03) 9761 5535; **NZ**—NEXUS Office;
UK—Deep Books, tel 020 8693 0234;
Europe—NEXUS Office; **USA**—Inner
Traditions, tel (802) 767 3174,
<http://www.InnerTraditions.com>

Humanity has just about run out of time in the linear sense, argues Dr José Argüelles in this long-awaited sequel to his 1987 *The Mayan Factor*. In *Time and The Technosphere*, he suggests that the destruction of the two World Trade Center towers and part of the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, was the "Inevitable Event" described in the Quran that would result from Western civilisation's pursuit of materialism on a global scale and its disregard for natural forces and universal time cycles. Dr Argüelles is well known for his part in the Harmonic Convergence global peace meditation of August 16-17, 1987, and for his landmark research into Maya cosmology.

Here he heralds the dawning of a New Age of Time, if only we can overcome the death throes of the so-called technosphere—the 56-year cycle that began with the atomic bomb detonations in 1945 and ended, he believes, with the events of 9-11. Drawing on the work of Russian scientist Vernadsky

(1863–1945) in delineating the laws and principles of the biosphere—the physical envelope that surrounds Earth—Argüelles posits that the biosphere is developing a mental envelope, the noosphere, and that the technosphere, the artificial construct encompassing modern industrialised civilisation, is the necessary bubble that must burst before we can reclaim our connection with nature. But we must do this before July 26, 2004, he says, or we won't survive the 2012 galactic shift foreseen by the Maya.

Intrinsic to ensuring our survival is the ditching of the Gregorian calendar—an artificial construct that binds much of the world to a 12-month/60-minute time-scale—and the adoption of a 13-month/28-day lunar calendar. This resonates with the 13:20 frequency that the Maya identified as the key to synchronising with natural, cosmic time. Argüelles is so serious about this that he devotes much of his energy to the World Thirteen Moon Calendar Change Peace Movement. Paradigm-changing stuff!



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WHAT SHINTARO TAUGHT ME:

Zen and The Art of Success

by Ron Lee

The Corporate Ninja P/L, Australia, 2002
ISBN 0-646-41803-3 (245pp hc)

Price: A\$49.95 + \$A7.00 in Australia;
check website for overseas postage details
Availability: **Australia**—The Corporate
Ninja Pty Ltd, PO Box 699, Double Bay,
NSW 1360, tel (02) 9363 1599, website
<http://www.corporate-ninja.com.au>

Having been a fan of the Japanese TV series *The Samurai* years ago, I was intrigued to see this book from Australia's "Corporate Ninja", Ron Lee: *What Shintaro Taught Me*. Well, Shintaro the Samurai and his Iga Ninjas taught me a lot, too—and I'm pleased to say, so has Ron Lee. Subtitled "Zen and The Art of Success", the book may be targeted at the business market—like Musashi's *A Book of Five Rings* updated for today's corporate warrior who wants to work with the Dao of the Dow and the Zen of the Hang Seng—but it's relevant for anyone who wants to go with the flow of life.

Lee is a martial artist experienced in several codes, including Bushido and Aikido, as well as being a motivational speaker, stand-up comedian, occasional film actor and former financial planner. He has developed his own brand of East-meets-West physical exercises and mental disciplines that are practical and even playful. Lee is dedicated to helping people find their true purpose and passion and achieve their full potential. He encourages each of us to embrace "creative insecurity" and run with spontaneous change: by following your own true nature, you are following the way of nature.

Lee's book is highly readable as well as entertaining, sprinkled with healthy doses of

humour. In fact, Lee devotes a whole chapter to the power of humour. Other "powers" include action, balance, breath, coincidence, courage, giving, higher force, love, meditation, respect, self-image and wisdom. These gems of truth are presented with a beautiful simplicity that's full of depth.

ADDICTED TO WAR:

Why the US Can't Kick Militarism

by Joel Andreas

AK Press, USA, 2002 (revised)

ISBN 1-902593-57-9 (65pp l/f tpb)

Price: US\$8.00 + s&h; £6.95; Euro12,90

Availability: **USA**—AK Press, 674-A 23rd

St, Oakland, CA 94612-1163, tel (510)

208 1700, website <http://www.akpress.org>;

UK—AK Distribution, PO Box 12766,

Edinburgh, EH8 9YE, tel 0131 5555165,

email ak@akedin.demon.co.uk; **Europe**—

NEXUS Office, tel +31 (0)321 380558

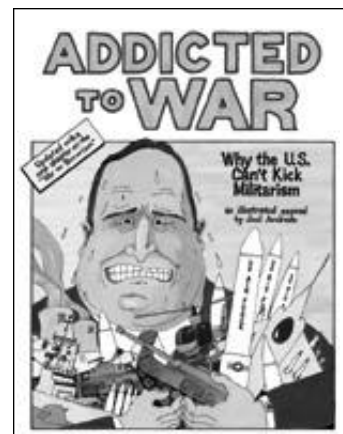
This slim but punchy volume of political cartoon stories proves that it's possible to get obvious truths across in a simple way but with maximum effectiveness. *Addicted to War* is a collection of satirical, witty cartoons and occasional photos with captions, commentary and quotes (referenced at the back of the book). It serves its purpose brilliantly by undressing the emperor—the US government, hand in hand with the military-industrial complex—and exposing the endemic lies, hypocrisy and corruption of a regime that is hell-bent on war.

Addicted to War was first published in 1993 to rave reviews from like-minded commentators, but author Joel Andreas, no doubt prompted by the events of September 11, 2001 and the immediate aftermath, has now updated his book with new cartoon

sequences and added a chapter on the Bush government's "War on Terrorism". The book strikes home how mad the world was before 9-11, but that it's even madder now.

Each chapter has a running storyline with historical perspective aplenty—introduced by one switched-on American mom who's telling her young son some home truths about the domestic and foreign policies of US governments since Independence. The short history of US military incursions (often conducted in the spirit of US corporate gain) puts recent war-posturing against Iraq into perspective.

Some new cartoons focus on VP Dick Cheney; one has him exiting his "secret bunker", warning that the "War on Terrorism" may never end—"At least not in our lifetime". Joel has seized upon Cheney's call for "endless war" as symptomatic of a dangerous addiction. He gives a context within which to understand why we haven't seen the last of this latest acceleration in warmongering. Scary material!





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OUT OF THE SHADOWS

by Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts

Piatkus Books, UK, 2002

ISBN 0-7499-2290-7 (282pp hc)

Price: A\$59.95; NZ\$59.95; £17.99;

Euro31,90; C\$/n/a

Availability: **Australia**—Hodder Headline,

(02) 8248 0800 (avail. Jan 2003); **NZ**—

David Bateman P/L, tel 09) 415 7664;

UK—Piatkus, tel 020 7631 0710,

<http://www.piatkus.co.uk>; **Europe**—

NEXUS Office; **Canada**—Georgetown

Publications Inc., tel (905) 873 2750

Patient folklore and mystery investigators Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts have been keeping tabs on UK government documents about the UFO phenomenon that are released every year under the government's 30-year rule. They've found papers that haven't seen the light of day since the latter years of World War II, but lament that many more are subject to much stricter time rules and remain classified. As confirmed by these documents and in interviews, pilots and crew members often encountered so-called "foo fighters" and "ghost rockets"—so many that the Royal Air Force at least had to record the sightings and debrief crews. So if they weren't German or Soviet secret craft or weapons, what were they?

The phenomenon continued and diversified after the war, and in 1947 the RAF had to scramble a squadron over East Anglia to try to intercept an "anomalous aircraft". By 1950, saucer stories were flying across the Atlantic and even members of the British aristocracy were taking the phenomenon seriously. It was in those early Cold War days, say Clarke and Roberts, that the Air Ministry, Admiralty, War Office and Ministry of Defence set up a Flying Saucer

Working Party. Yet the MoD stuck to its guns that UFOs were "of no defence significance", and a cloak of secrecy was pulled over matters ufological on both sides of the Atlantic (remember the UKUSA agreement?). Some classic UK cases are re-analysed and much new ground trod in this eye-opening exposé of decades of official cover-up. The authors leave it to readers to judge the extensive evidence on its merits.

THE SHADOW GOVERNMENT: 9-11 and State Terror

by Len Bracken

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2002

ISBN 1-931882-05-3 (274pp tpb)

Price: A\$33.00; NZ\$43.00 + p&p; £15.50

inc. p&p; Euro20,90; US\$16.00 + s&h

Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK/Europe**—

NEXUS offices; **USA**—Adventures

Unlimited, tel (815) 253 6390, website

<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>

As events unfold in this ongoing "War on Terrorism", and with the Bush administration's sights seemingly set on Iraq (and its oil reserves) after its Afghanistan incursion; with personal freedoms increasingly subjugated for the sake of protection against terrorist threats, and with the existence of a US "shadow" government openly declared: surely people are waking up to the fact that all is not as it seems or as we've been told.

How much longer can we dismiss government failings as incompetence or coincidence and not as evidence of corruption or—dare it be said—conspiracy? Author Len Bracken (*The Arch Conspirator*; see 7/03) presents a "state terror" thesis in the context of key US foreign policy cover-ups in the last century or so and the events surrounding 9-11. He reminds us of the CIA's

complicity in the funding and training of al-Qa'ida and other fundamentalist groups—making us ask what part the CIA may have played in these recent terror attacks.

Time and time again, the public is deceived and terrorised while powerful government and corporate interests pursue geopolitical and economic wealth in what amounts to a lead-up to war, or war itself. And in response to these terror threats, governments around the world are upping the ante and adopting the most draconian legislations in their histories.

Bracken asks who the *real* terrorists are when the post-9-11 anthrax attacks in the US involved a strain sourced from a US government lab. Who was responsible for the 9-11 attacks or allowed them to be perpetrated? Who else stood to gain? His discussion taps links between Bush-Cheney oil interests and the bin Laden family as well as the Enron collapse. Beware the shadow government, he warns.



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THE HOLY LAND OF SCOTLAND: Jesus in Scotland & the Gospel of the Grail

by Barry Dunford

Sacred Connections, Scotland, UK, 2002
ISBN 0-9541873-0-X (300pp tpb)
Price: £13.50 + £2.50 p&p in UK, +
£3.50 to Europe, + £5.50 elsewhere;
US\$22.00; Euro23,90 from NEXUS Office
Availability: **UK**—Sacred Connections, 3
Invervar Cottages, Glenlyon, Perthshire
PH15 2NJ, email holyland@sacredconnec-
tion.ndo.co.uk, [http://www.sacredconnec-
tion.ndo.co.uk](http://www.sacredconnec-
tion.ndo.co.uk); **Europe**—NEXUS Office



Evidence for Joseph of Arimathea's hav-
ing visited the British Isles is strong, but
in *The Holy Land of Scotland* author/histori-
cal researcher Barry Dunford proposes an
even older connection between Caledonia
(now Scotland), particularly the Perthshire
region, and the Holy Land (Palestine/Israel).
He presents the case that the Hebrew and

Celtic/Druidic lines stemmed from a com-
mon Grail ancestry that goes back to Noah,
and that ancestors of Yeshua (Jesus) had a
history in Caledonia traceable to at least
1500 BC. Not only that, he suggests that
they migrated from Caledonia to Palestine
several generations before his birth.

But more surprises are in store. We've
heard stories that Jesus also travelled to the
British Isles and that the Celtic Christian
Church was established there in AD 37—
thus considerably pre-dating the Church of
Rome—but Dunford concludes that the first
"Christic" Church was established two cen-
turies *before* the birth of Christ. It was a
coming together of mystery traditions link-
ing the Druids with the Egyptians as well as
the Essenes and other monastic orders of the
Middle East. An understanding of the world
energy grid and how to tap into geomantic
power places was common to all these mys-
tery schools, Dunford explains.

This book would have stood on its own
without the chapters on the "anti-Grail"
(anti-Christ) global Zionist agenda, which
rely heavily on commentary from hard-core
conspiracy writers. But Dunford considers
this essential background for understanding
the broader historical perspective to today.

THE NEW JERUSALEM: Rebuilding London

by Adrian Gilbert

Bantam Press/Transworld, UK, 2002
ISBN 0-593-046943 (290pp hc)
Price: A\$54.95; NZ\$64.95; £17.99;
Euro31,90; C\$44.95

Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK/Canada**—
Random House; **Europe**—NEXUS Office

The rebuilding of London following the
bombings of World War II was piece-

meal and lacking grand vision compared
with that which happened following the
Great Fire of London in 1666. Was it that a
purging on a vast scale—373 acres within
the City walls and 63 outside—was neces-
sary for the remnants of the dark, Puritan
days under Cromwell to be done away with
and a new, enlightened age to be born?

Waiting in the wings was a new movement
being shaped by the mystical and scientific
mindsets of a group of Freemasons,
Rosicrucians and Hermeticists. They went
on to found the Royal Society under the ban-
ner of King Charles II, but there was another
agenda afoot: London's inheritance of its
true position as the prophesied archetypal
New Jerusalem.

As understood by Adrian Gilbert (co-
author, *The Orion Mystery* and *The Mayan
Prophecies*, and author of *Magi: The Quest
for a Secret Tradition*), layers of a much
older London were uncovered after the fire.
He concludes that the vision of Christopher
Wren, chief architect on the project, encom-
passed sacred geometry principles. The
design and orientation of key churches such
as St Paul's Cathedral had relationships with
temple designs and sitings in Jerusalem and
showed the hand of the Knights Templars.
Roman influences from the site were meld-
ed, yet none from the earlier Trojan era.

To make sense of this New Jerusalem idea,
Gilbert introduces scenarios involving the
fate of the lost tribes of Israel, who escaped
from the Assyrians 2,700 years ago and
ended up in Britain, and the preservation of
a Christian Church that preceded the birth of
the Church of Rome. Gilbert digs up layers
of meaning hitherto undreamt of, and sets
the scene for a reading of history quite dif-
ferent from the mundane.



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CENSORED 2003:

The Top 25 Censored Stories

by Peter Phillips & Project Censored

Seven Stories Press, USA, 2002

ISBN 1-58322-515-3 (398pp tpb)

Price: £12.99; Euro22,90; US\$17.95;

C\$25.95

Availability: **UK**—Turnaround Publisher

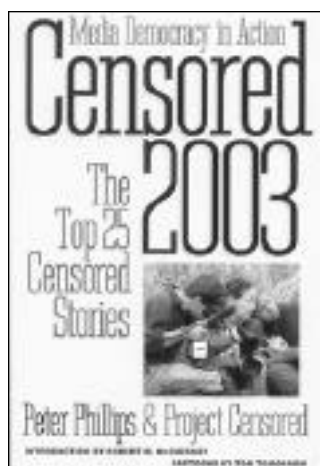
Services Ltd, tel 020 8829 3000; **Europe**—

NEXUS Office; **USA**—Seven Stories Press,

tel (212) 226 8760, website

<http://www.sevenstories.com>; **Canada**—

Hushion House, tel (416) 285 6100



Project Censored, set up in 1976, is a non-profit organisation managed through the Department of Sociology of the School of Social Sciences at Sonoma State University in California, USA. The project, which involves at least 200 students, staff and faculty members, consultants and judges, is "dedicated to the freedom of information through the United States".

Every year, Project Censored releases its rundown of the top 25 news stories (and runners-up) that were underreported in the corporate media in the previous 12 to 18 months (see our summary of the top stories this issue). The list is whittled down in a series of steps from several thousand stories. This compilation, published by Seven Stories Press in conjunction with Project Censored, is a must for news-watchers everywhere, but particularly in the US.

Apart from the extensive coverage including updates on the top 25 stories and runners-up for 2001/02, there are follow-ups on the "winning" stories of the previous year—lest we forget their importance. Several introductory pieces set the tone, deploring the fact that on an unprecedented level the corporate media are protecting their profits, ratings and interests over journalistic principles and their charter to keep the public informed. Adding weight is a chapter devoted to news and comment before and

beyond 9-11. Separate chapters from contributors cover "junk food news", power groups, rebuilding democracy with grass-roots news, media self-censorship, the top 10 media giants, and the truth about Afghan civilian casualties in the "war against terror". Cartoonist Tom Tomorrow provides reality checks throughout the book with his incisive "This Modern World" strips.

To top it all off, *Censored 2003* (a title with extended shelf life) contains an extensive list of independent media resources and activist organisations. Well done, team!

SILBURY DAWNING:

The Alien Visitor Gene Theory

by John Cowie

The Media Shack, UK, 2002

ISBN 1-903542-01-4 (180pp tpb)

Price: A\$19.00; £6.99 + £2.75 p&p in

UK; Euro12,90 (from NEXUS Office);

US\$10.00; C\$16.00

Availability: **Australia**—ebooks.com;

UK—The Media Shack, 12 Willow Drive,

Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2SN, tel 01380

727949, website <http://www.silburydawning.com>;

<http://www.amazon.co.uk>;

Europe—NEXUS Office; **USA/Canada**—

Barnes & Noble, <http://www.bn.com>

Human civilisation could not have developed without the intervention of "Alien Visitors" in improving our genetics, says John Cowie in *Silbury Dawning*. There's evidence for an alien seeding—either by genetic engineering or interbreeding—occurring around 13,000 years ago in the post-Ice Age period, and he believes that this truth will be borne out with careful DNA analysis of ancient mummified bodies.

Cowie, a computer industry veteran who lives near Silbury Hill and other megalithic sites of Wiltshire, takes the perspective that the genetic changes coded into our make-up resulted in vast improvements in our capacities for intelligence and imagination. He even goes so far as to suggest that today's genetic engineers and computer scientists are merely activating a genetic memory software installed by these visitors long ago.

But how to define Cowie's stance? He's not a Darwinist, yet evolution is part of his model. Nor is he a Creationist or Intelligent Design adherent, but his alien intervention hypothesis presupposes a long, uneventful evolutionary process that was suddenly seeded with advanced genetics. He's less concerned with how life originated than with how human intelligence expanded so quickly and created great civilisations.

Cowie is not the first to propose the alien seeding hypothesis, but the idea is gaining wider credence in the public mind. Is this because it's part of our genetic destiny?

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GENESIS UNVEILED:

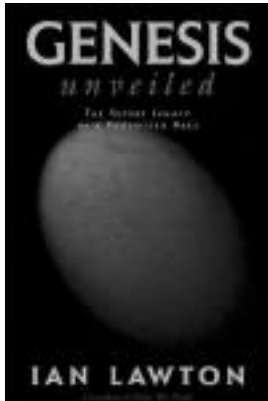
The Secret Legacy of a Forgotten Race by Ian Lawton

Self-published, UK, 2002

ISBN n/a (300pp PDF file on CD-ROM)

Price: £15 inc. p&p; US\$25.00 inc. s&h

Availability: **United Kingdom**—Ian Lawton, c/- Brighton Marina, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 5HA, England, website <http://www.ianlawton.com/cdord.htm>



The answer to how our ancestors survived a post-Ice Age catastrophe and went on to build settlements and civilisations is not because we were genetically seeded by alien races, but because advanced souls incarnated in human physical form and showed us the way. And looking at the progress of humanity, we can't discount the notion that this is an ongoing process.

But in *Genesis Unveiled*, Ian Lawton argues that the future of our modern culture, with its emphasis on materialism, is not assured. It's imperative that we resurrect our spiritual natures and incorporate the esoteric wisdom that has survived from pre-Flood times into a new-paradigm worldview—otherwise we are destined to repeat the mistakes of the past and initiate the end of civilisation as we know it. In explaining why he's arrived at this view, Lawton analyses ancient mythologies, arcane knowledge and shamanic traditions, anomalous artefacts and archaeological findings, the development of language and culture, the effects of natural catastrophes, and the new science that restates the knowledge of the ancients.

Lawton, who lives in Brighton, England, has devoted the past decade to researching ancient mysteries and cultures, and his first book, *Giza: The Truth* (with Chris Ogilvie-Herald; see 7/01) was well received. Yet, as we go to press, he's still to secure a publisher for this new book. So he's made the full manuscript available in PDF format on a CD (with two bonus short stories), which can be purchased from his website. It's well worth taking the trouble to download.

SEEDS OF DISTRUST:

The Story of a GE Cover-up by Nicky Hager

Craig Potton Publishing, New Zealand, 2002

ISBN 0-908802-92-7 (156pp tpb)

Price: NZ\$29.95 + NZ\$3.00 p&h in NZ; overseas orders add NZ\$10.00–\$15.00 (see website for details)

Availability: **New Zealand**—Craig Potton Publishing, PO Box 555, Nelson, tel +64 3548 9009, website <http://www.craigpotton.co.nz>

New Zealander Nicky Hager is the investigative journalist who lifted the lid on the *Echelon* satellite spy system with his book *Secret Power* (see 3/06), and exposed an anti-environmental campaign funded by the state logging company Timberlands in *Secrets and Lies*.

In his third book, *Seeds of Distrust*, Hager reveals government corruption and cover-ups over the illegal planting of sweet corn seed that had been contaminated by Novartis's (now Syngenta's) genetically engineered Bt "Jubilee" sweet corn.

On October 10, 2000, 5.6 tonnes (about 40 million seeds) arrived in New Zealand, and by early November half that supply had been planted in three locations over 178 hectares on both North and South islands. When a positive GE test result came back, the plants were already 30 cm high.

Hager has had access to leaked Cabinet papers and other documents (reprinted here) which show how the government conspired to manipulate media coverage and keep the public in the dark. He learned that instead of ordering the crop destroyed—as PM Helen Clark initially wanted done—the government bowed to industry pressure, allowing a 0.5% contamination threshold and permitting the illegal GE seedlings to be grown, harvested and processed into food products and the rest of the seeds sown.

The scandal, which Hager made public at his book launch during the 2002 election lead-up, was particularly serious because it coincided with the Royal Commission into Genetic Modification—and the government had agreed to a moratorium on GMO releases for the duration of the Commission. Some say that the timing of the announcement ultimately led to the government's loss of its majority in Parliament at the election.

Apart from being a slap in the face to supporters of a "clean, green" NZ, the government's cover-up of illegal GE plantings was a breach of public trust. For comparison, Hager looks at GE breaches in other parts of the world where governments have taken responsible measures to fix the problems. His book is an important exposé, and he was compelled to write it in the public interest.



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BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

LEGENDS OF THE STAR ANCESTORS

by Nancy Red Star

Bear & Co./Inner Traditions, USA, 2002

ISBN 1-879181-79-7 (259pp tpb)

Price: A\$46.95; NZ\$54.95; £15.99;

Euro22,90; US\$18.00

Availability: **Australia**—Brumby Books,

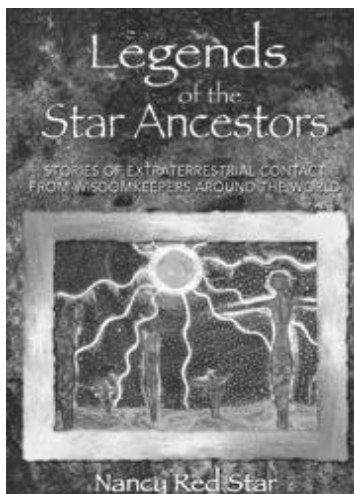
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<http://www.InnerTraditions.com>



Common to the Elder races and ancient cultures and religions of the planet are traditions that tell of the reality of "Star Ancestors" and how they seeded humanity. Each tradition has its wisdom-keepers and story-tellers, many of whom have been linking up in recent years to participate in a wider vision for the future of the planet and humankind. Aspects of that shared vision involve protecting the environment and all its life-forms, and realising that we are part of a much larger cosmic plan.

Santa Fe-based author and lecturer Nancy Red Star, the daughter of a Cherokee, has been playing her part in facilitating this grand global vision, which sees the stepping up of planetary vibration and the dawning of an enlightened new age. For *Legends of the Star Ancestors*, she has gathered contributions from teachers, healers, shamans and artists from a variety of traditions, cultures, religions and combinations thereof: Native American, African, Australian Aboriginal, Celtic, Cuban, Islamic, Japanese, Jewish, Mayan, Tibetan and more. All of them are working in their own way to protect their cultural and spiritual wisdom and share it

with the world. All of them have knowledge of the "Star People"—from the Pleiades, Sirius, Aldebaran, Venus or wherever—and some have had their own close encounters with UFOs and spirit beings.

One contributor, Daniel Salter, of Comanche and French heritage, is a former NRO and CIA operative who spills secrets about what the US government already knows about the extraterrestrial races.

The enticing stories and the beautiful colour artwork gracing these pages remind us not to limit our horizons.

ELECTRONIC VOICE PHENOMENON: The Cinderella Science

by Gerry Connelly

Domra Publications, UK, 2001

ISBN 0-9524417-4-8 (120pp tpb)

Price: £8.95 inc. p&p

Availability: **UK**—Domra Publications, 65 Constable Road, Corby, Northamptonshire NN18 0RT, tel/fax +44 (0)1536 201250, email domra@ukf.net

Instrumental transcommunication (ITC) has been known about since at least 1849, when anomalous words and geometric patterns were recorded on telegraphic devices. Nikola Tesla also picked up strange recordings via his instruments from the early days of his research with buried loop antennae. UK author and physicist Gerry Connelly has been researching the phenomenon since the 1970s, and in his book he gives a brief summary of its fascinating history.

Another aspect of ITC is the electronic voice phenomenon (EVP), where mysterious voices turn up on recording tape. The modern EVP era began in 1959 when Friedrich Jürgenson, a Ukrainian-born musician exiled in Sweden, found anomalous voices on his tapes, though spiritists with an electronics bent were experimenting with receiving "communications from the dead" before then. Though a "fringe" area of research, it has attracted the attention of not just spiritists but scientists, engineers, psychologists, parapsychologists and Catholic priests. And now with television and computers, the possibilities for receiving anomalous messages have expanded.

In his guide to understanding EVP and ITC, Connelly describes the types of voices and other sub-phenomena encountered in recordings and shows how the layperson can experiment with very simple recording equipment. He also speculates on how the words and sounds arrive on tape, in defiance of definitive scientific explanation, as well as on their sources. He considers several theories and "laws" covering multidimensional consciousness and cyberspace reality which may help explain the phenomenon.

REVIEWS



MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

PRESENT

by The Itch

New World Music, UK, 2002 (51mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—New World Music, tel 01986 781682, **USA**—New World Music, tel (303) 415 1040, <http://www.newworldmusic.com>

A highly accomplished guitarist, Robin Boulton (aka The Itch) gives this album his all with a skilfully produced piece of soulful guitar, some fiery passion, good solid rhythms, modern Indian/African fusion sounds and a great synthesiser backing. This is a well-rounded album of guitar delights to fill a club at night or for a lazy afternoon on the verandah. A delightful CD of fresh and evocative playing.

STARS OF AFRO-POP

by various artists

ARC Music Prodn, UK, 2001 (63mins)
Distributors: **UK**—Arc Music, tel 01342 328567; **USA**—Arc Music, website <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

The ARC Music label produces some masterful music from around the world. This CD is from their African series and includes all the greats. Youssou N'Dour, Ricardo Lemvo, Papa Wembe, Zap Mama, Toure Kunda, Manu Dibango and Esther Wahome are some of the renowned singers and musicians represented on this all-star collection. It's certain this album will get you up tripping, slipping and/or just dancing to the awesome sounds of the masters of modern Afro-music.

RASA IN CONCERT

by Rasa

Hearts of Space, USA, 2002 (60mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **USA**—Valley Entertainment, tel (212) 974 9400, website <http://www.hos.com>

Kim Waters and Hans Christian are a duo called Rasa, who sing and play devotional-style music. Rasa's music is based on Indian devotional songs from the *Vaisnava* tradition. With their special arrangements for traditional songs and instruments, Rasa has developed a sound that is deeply spiritual, respectful of the traditional values and accessible to a Western audience. Their music blends meditative, transcendental and ethereal qualities into elegant, contemporary music. This is a fine and inspiring album, recorded at several of their live concerts.

SYA

by Issa Bagayogo

Six Degrees, USA, 2002 (47mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK/USA**—Six Degrees Records, website <http://www.sixdegreesrecords.com>

Another celebrated singer from the galactic spectrum of Malians, Issa Bagayogo hails from the traditional musical style of Wassulu in the southwestern region of Mali. He plays the traditional lute, known as the *kamélé n'goni*, an instrument with six strings. His songs revolve around community themes, with stories of marriage, death, festivals and social get-togethers. He has managed to bring together the acoustic sound of his music and combine it with electronica, resulting in a gratifying blend of up-tempo West African groove.

CONGO TO CUBA

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2002 (59mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020, **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo World Music, tel 1888 7888 8629, <http://www.putumayo.com>

Cuba and West Africa share a profound connection in their music via the African influences introduced during the slave-trade period, resulting in a fused blend of style and sound. Cuban music has had a deep influence on West African music since the 1930s, but a new wave in the 1950s–60s resulted in such styles as Congolese *soukous* and *rumba*. In the 1970s, African and Cuban musicians began playing and recording together in each other's lands. This compilation has Chico Alvarez (Cuba), Mama Sissoko (Guinea), Gnonnas Pedro (Benin), Balla Tounkara (Mali), Monte Adentro (Cuba), Pape Fall (Senegal) and many more. A hot celebration of Afro-Cuban!

